

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Samuel Digirolamo on Oct 24, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

a) on lines 2-3 of the abstract, the title of the invention "METHOD AND DEVICE FOR DETECTING DIRECTION OF MEMBER HAVING OUTER PERIPHERY FORMED IN VERTICALLY ASYMMETRICAL SHAPE" has been deleted;

b) on line 4 of the abstract, "[0058]" has been deleted;

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c) on lines ⁵⁷~~5-8~~ of the abstract, " The components include, for example, disk-like, cylindrical, or annular components, more specifically engine parts having an orientation such as piston rings." has been deleted (the abstract was longer than 150 words);

d) on line 7 of claim 7, -- , wherein the top-bottom orientation of the component is identified based on a gap created between the outer peripheral part of the component and the reference block -- has been added after " reference block".

Reasons for Allowance

Claims 1-7 allowed.

As to claims 1-7 the prior of record, taken alone or in combination, fails to disclose or render obvious a method or device wherein an outer peripheral part of the